# WILLOUGHBY & HOEFER, P.A.

June 13, 2007

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TRACEY C. GREEN SPECIAL COUNSEL

# VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Charles L.A. Terreni Chief Clerk/Administrator **Public Service Commission of South Carolina** 101 Executive Center Drive Columbia, South Carolina 29210

> Application of Carolina Water Service, Inc. For Approval of a Contract with North RE: Royal Tower, LLC to Serve Cornerstone Place of Irmo Subdivision

Dear Mr. Terreni:

Enclosed for filing are the original and ten (10) copies of the Application of Carolina Water Service, Inc., in the above-referenced matter. Also enclosed you will find the Applicant's proposed notice of filing. By copy of this letter, I am serving a copy of these documents upon the Executive Director of the Office of Regulatory Staff and enclose a Certificate of Service to that effect.

I would appreciate your acknowledging receipt of this Application and Certificate by datestamping the extra copy that is enclosed and returning it to me via the courier delivering same.

If you have any questions or if you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

WILLOUGHBY & HOEFER, P.A.

in Matro

Benjamin P. Mustian

BPM/twb **Enclosures** 

Honorable C. Dukes Scott

### **BEFORE**

# THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

# **SOUTH CAROLINA**

DOCKET NO. 2007-230\_-s

IN RE:	)	
	)	
Application of Carolina Water Service,	)	
Inc. for Approval of a contract with	)	
North Royal Tower, LLC to serve	)	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
Cornerstone Place of Irmo Subdivision.	)	

This is to certify that I have caused to be served this day one (1) copy of the Application in the above-captioned matter by placing same in the care and custody of the United States Postal Service with first class postage affixed thereto and addressed as follows:

Honorable C. Dukes Scott
Executive Director
Office of Regulatory Staff
Post Office Box 11263
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Tracy W. Barnes

Columbia, South Carolina This 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2007.

### **BEFORE**

# THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

DOCKET NO. 2007-230-S

IN RE:	)	
	)	
Application of Carolina Water Service,	)	
Inc. for approval of a contract with	)	APPLICATION
North Royal Tower, LLC to serve	)	
Cornerstone Place of Irmo Subdivision	)	

Carolina Water Service, Inc. ("Applicant" or "Utility") hereby submits a contract between it and North Royal Tower, LLC ("Developer") for consideration by this Honorable Commission under Vol. 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. R. 103-541 (Supp.2006). In support of this Application, Applicant would respectfully show as follows:

1. Applicant is a public utility currently authorized to operate water and wastewater systems under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") in Richland County, as well as certain other counties in this state. Its corporate charter is presently on file with the Commission and an appropriate bond has been posted with same. A schedule of the current rates and charges for Applicant's water and wastewater service has previously been approved by the Commission in Docket No. 2004-357-W/S by way of Order No. 2007-135, dated March 1, 2007. Additionally, CWS has implemented rates and charges under bond in accordance with Order No. 2007-230 dated April 5, 2007, issued in Docket No. 2006-92-W/S.

As the Commission is aware, the Commission denied Applicant's request in Docket No. 2006-92-W/S by way of Order No. 2006-543 dated October 2, 2006. Applicant subsequently petitioned the Commission for reconsideration or rehearing of that Order. On November 27, 2006, the Commission issued a directive denying that petition and

- 2. The Applicant seeks approval of an agreement entered into between Applicant and the Developer dated May 18, 2007 ("Agreement"), a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit "A." Under Article IV, § 1 of the Agreement, Applicant will provide wastewater utility service to the proposed development pursuant to all of the terms, conditions, rates and charges set forth in its existing rate schedule as are on file with this Commission and in effect from time to time.<sup>2</sup>
- 3. Pursuant to this agreement, Applicant proposes to serve the "Cornerstone Place of Irmo Subdivision" ("Development") which will consist of approximately ninety-five (95) single family homes when completed. The Agreement provides, *inter alia*, that Developer will construct all of the necessary wastewater collection facilities ("Facilities") required to serve the Development, interconnect the facilities with the Utility's existing wastewater systems, acquire all necessary easements and rights-of-way ("Easements") and convey such Facilities and Easements to Applicant. Performance of the Agreement is conditioned upon its approval by this Commission.
- 4. The proposed development is within Applicant's Commission authorized Service Area in Richland County. Accordingly, no other public utility is authorized to serve the proposed development.
- 5. Pursuant to Article II, § 15 of the Agreement, Developer has agreed to pay to the Utility service connection and plant impact fees for the ninety-five (95) single family homes and, pursuant to Article II, § 14 of the Agreement, Applicant has agreed to reserve adequate utility capacity for up to ninety-five (95) wastewater connections located within the Property.

approving Applicant's request to place rates into effect under bond. On April 5, 2007, the Commission issued its order approving a bond which permitted CWS to place rates into effect as allowed by S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-5-240(D) (Supp. 2005). As of the date of this application, the Commission has not yet issued its order denying CWS's petition for reconsideration or rehearing.

Thus, upon any subsequent revisions to rates resulting from any appeal which may be taken from Commission orders in Docket No. 2006-92-W/S, the rates to be charged in the proposed development would change.

Applicant submits that this provision is warranted and in the public interest as the terms of this contract allow the utility to adequately engage in planning for operations.

- 6. Applicant submits that the public convenience and necessity will be served by the approval of this Agreement. Applicant further submits that no hearing in this matter is required. See S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-240(G) (Supp.2006).
- 7. All correspondence and communications regarding this matter should be sent to the undersigned.

WHEREFORE, having fully set forth its Application, Applicant prays that the Agreement be approved, that a hearing on the within matter be waived or review of the within application be expedited, and that Applicant be granted such other and further relief as the Commission may deem just and proper.

John M.S. Hoefer Benjamin P. Mustian

Willoughby & Hoefer, PA

Post Office Box 8416

Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8416

803-252-3300

Attorneys for Applicant

Columbia, South Carolina This 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2007

## AGREEMENT FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE

### CORNERSTONE PLACE OF IRMO SUBDIVISION

#### RICHLAND COUNTY, SC

This Agreement is entered into this 18 day of may, 2007 by and between North Royal Tower, LLC, (hereinafter referred to as "Developer"), and Carolina Water Service, Inc., a Delaware corporation authorized to do business in South Carolina (hereinafter referred to as "Utility").

#### WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Developer is the owner of a certain real estate parcel containing approx.

20.39 acres (Tax Parcel No. R04005-01-01) located on the eastside of Friarsgate Boulevard,
between North Royal Tower and South Royal Tower Roads, in Richland County, South
Carolina, hereinafter referred to as the "Property" (see "Exhibit 1"); and,

WHEREAS, Developer desires to develop the Property into a residential development to be called "Cornerstone Place of Irmo Subdivision," which will contain approximately ninety-five (95) single family homes when completed; and,

WHEREAS, Utility is a public utility engaged in the business of furnishing sewer service to the public in its designated Friarsgate Franchised Service Territory located in Richland County and Property is located within the service territory. The Utility desires to have constructed and installed, and the Developer desires to construct and install, the wastewater collection facilities to serve the Property subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, Developer desires Utility to provide wastewater utility service within the Property and Utility desires to provide wastewater utility service subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants as hereinafter set forth, the parties hereto agree as follows:

### ARTICLE I

Representations and Warranties of Developer

Developer represents and warrants that:

- Developer is the owner of or is duly authorized to act on behalf of the owner(s) of the
   Property; and,
- Developer will cooperate fully with the Utility in any and all applications or petitions to
  public authorities deemed necessary or desirable by Utility in connection with the
  construction and installation of the Facilities contemplated by this Agreement; and,
- Developer will convey to the Utility or otherwise vest in the Utility such right, title and
  interest in and to such real estate as may be reasonably necessary to permit the Utility to
  carry out the terms and conditions of this Agreement; and,
- 4. Developer will convey to Utility or provide by recorded subdivision plats such easements or rights of way as the Utility may reasonably require for the Utility's performance of its obligations under this Agreement. Any such plats, conveyances or licenses will be in form reasonably satisfactory to Utility's legal counsel.

### **ARTICLE II**

# Obligations and Construction of Facilities by Developer

### 1. Facilities

- Developer shall construct and install all necessary wastewater collection facilities to serve the Property, including but not limited to mains, service laterals, manholes, and other facilities as are reasonably required to provide adequate wastewater service (herein referred to as the "Facilities"). Wastewater collection mains will have a minimum diameter of eight (8) inches, except where otherwise approved by Utility. Developer shall interconnect the Facilities to Utility's wastewater system along Friarsgate Boulevard as determined by Utility.
- 2. All materials used by the Developer for said Facilities shall be new, first-class, and suitable for the uses made thereof. Developer guarantees all construction, materials, workmanship, and the trouble-free operation of the Facilities (or any portion of the Facilities) for one year after the Facilities (or such portion of the Facilities) are placed in service.
- All Facilities constructed and installed by Developer pursuant to this Article II shall be constructed and installed without cost or expense to Utility.

- 4. All plans, specifications and construction of the Facilities shall be in accordance with applicable standards, requirements, rules and regulations of all governmental bodies and regulatory agencies which may have jurisdiction thereover, and shall have received the written approval of Utility before construction is begun, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.
- 5. Developer shall save and hold Utility harmless from and against all suits or claims that may be based upon any injury to any person or property that may occur in the course of the performance of the construction of the Facilities by Developer or by anyone acting on Developer's behalf, or under Developer's supervision and control, including but not limited to claims made by employees of Developer, and Developer shall, at its own cost and expense, pay all costs and other expenses arising therefrom, or incurred in connection therewith, including reasonable attorneys' fees.
- Developer shall obtain, with cooperation from Utility, all requisite permits and zoning and other approvals and all else required to construct the Facilities.
- 7. All of the Facilities installed by Developer pursuant to this Agreement shall become the property of Utility as installed, without cost or expense to Utility, with the exception of the service laterals for which each residential unit shall retain ownership and maintenance responsibility. Developer shall execute all conveyances, licenses and other documents reasonably requested by Utility as necessary or desirable in its opinion to ensure its ownership of, ready access to, and operation and maintenance of the Facilities.

  Developer shall furnish Utility with lien waivers in a form reasonably satisfactory to Utility's counsel from Developer and from all suppliers, subcontractors and all other who furnish labor, equipment, materials, rentals, or who perform any services in connection with Facilities construction herein. Developer agrees to provide to Utility documentary evidence, in form satisfactory to Utility, sufficient to establish the original cost of the Facilities. Utility shall have, at all times, all right, title and interest in and to the Facilities.
- 8. Developer shall not have the right to connect individual lot service connections to the Facilities until such time as the Facilities have been formally accepted by the Utility, written approvals have been received from all governmental bodies and regulatory

- agencies which may have jurisdiction thereover, and all applicable connection fees have been paid.
- 9. All connections must be inspected by the Utility prior to backfilling and covering of any pipes. Written notice to the Utility requesting an inspection of a connection shall be made at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the inspection, excluding weekends and official Utility holidays.
- 10. Should the Developer fail to comply with the foregoing inspection provisions, Utility may refuse service to a connection until such time as the appropriate inspections have been completed.
- 11. Developer shall, prior to the transfer to Utility of the Facilities, grant permanent, assignable easements satisfactory to Utility, without cost or expense to Utility, authorizing Utility to own, operate and maintain the Facilities throughout the Property and providing reasonably adequate rights of access and working space for such purposes.
- 12. Developer shall, upon transfer to Utility of the Facilities, provide to Utility as-built drawings (by both hard copy and electronic copy), permits, and all other information reasonably required to operate, maintain, and repair the Facilities.
- 13. Developer shall submit to Utility upon execution of this Agreement a Plan Review Fee of three hundred dollars (\$300) for each phase of the development. Developer shall, prior to the final acceptance of each development phase, or portions thereof, submit to Utility a one hundred fifty dollar (\$150) Inspection Fee. Should the Facilities require additional inspection(s) due to improper installation, defective or unapproved materials, the Developer shall pay one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) for each additional inspection required.
- 14. Upon Developer's satisfaction of its obligations under this Agreement, Utility agrees to reserve adequate utility capacity for up to 95 wastewater connections located within the Property.
- 15. Developer shall pay and deliver to Utility upon the execution of this Agreement the sum of money which is the non-recurring service connection and plant impact fees ("Tap Fees") provided for under Utility's rate schedule, as may be approved by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina and in effect from time to time, multiplied by the Single Family Equivalent ("SFE") rating set forth therein. For the project which is the

subject of this Agreement, that sum shall be \$66,500, which is based upon an estimated 95 SFEs and the Utility's current rate schedule. Should it be determined that the project contemplated by this Agreement consists of a greater number of SFEs than is estimated hereinabove, then and in that event Developer shall be required to pay an additional sum to Utility for each additional SFE using the calculation provided for hereinabove. In addition Developer agrees that it will not represent to any third party that utility service is available from Utility for use within the proposed development except (1) upon Developer's payment of the Tap Fees as provided hereinabove, and (2) establishment of service and an account between said third party and Utility, including payment of all fees and charges authorized under the Utility's approved rate schedule excepting tap fees.

### ARTICLE III

# Representations and Warranties of Developer

Neither Developer nor any entity or individual affiliated with Developer has executed or
will execute any agreement with any lot purchaser in the Property, or any other parties or
made any representations to any such purchasers or other parties whereunder such
purchaser or other parties have acquired any interest in Facilities to be installed under this
Agreement.

### **ARTICLE IV**

### Utility Services, Connection Fees, Rates and Charges

- 1. Prior to the commencement of utility service, lot owners within the Property are responsible for the payment to Utility of sewer tap-on or connection fees at the rate as in effect from time to time prior to the provision of utility service to any lot within the Property. Such fees, usage and all other incidental rates and charges shall be rendered by Utility in accordance with Utility's rates, rules and regulations and conditions of service on file with the South Carolina Public Service Commission (the "Commission") from time to time and then in effect. Capacity shall not be reserved for any lots for which the tap fee has not been paid.
- Upon installation and acceptance of the Facilities and payment of all applicable
   connection fees, Utility agrees to supply all customers within the Property with adequate

and customary wastewater service and to operate, maintain and repair all Facilities as indicated herein, after acceptance by Utility and issuance of operational approvals by all regulatory authorities.

### ARTICLE V

### Commission Approval

Within thirty (30) days following the execution of this Agreement, Utility will file a
petition with the Commission requesting approval of this Agreement, if necessary.

All terms and conditions contained herein are subject to Utility receiving said
approvals from the Commission.

### ARTICLE VI

### General

- 1. Except as provided in this Agreement, neither party to this Agreement shall be liable to the other for failure, default or delay in performing any of its obligations hereunder, if such failure, default or delay is caused by strikes or other labor problems, by forces of nature, unavoidable accident, fire, acts of the public enemy, interference by civil authorities, acts or failure to act, decisions or orders or regulations of any governmental or military body or agency, office or commission, delays in receipt of materials, or any other cause, whether of similar or dissimilar nature, not within the control of the party affected and which, by the exercise of due diligence, such party is unable to prevent or overcome, except as otherwise provided for herein. Should any of the foregoing events occur, the parties hereto agree to proceed with diligence to do what is reasonable and necessary so that each party may perform its obligations under this Agreement.
- 2. The failure of either party hereto to enforce any of the provisions of this Agreement or the waiver thereof in any instance by either party shall not be construed as a general waiver or relinquishment on its part of any such provisions, but the same shall, nevertheless, be and remain in full force and effect.
- 3. The representations, warranties and agreements contained herein shall survive, and continue in effect. Utility agrees to indemnify Developer, its successors and assigns, and hold Developer harmless against any loss, damage, liability, expense or cost accruing or

resulting from any misrepresentations or breach of any representation, warranty or agreement on the part of Utility under this Agreement. Developer agrees to indemnify Utility, its successors and assigns, and hold it and them harmless against any loss, damage, liability, expense or cost of Utility, accruing or resulting from any misrepresentation or breach of any representation, warranty or agreement on the part of Developer under this Agreement or from any misrepresentation in or material omission from any certificate or other document furnished or to be furnished to Utility by Developer.

- This Agreement sets forth the complete understanding between Developer and Utility,
   and any amendments hereto to be effective must be made in writing.
- Notices, correspondence and invoicing required hereunder shall be given to Developer and to Utility at the following addresses, or at any other addresses designated in writing by either party subsequent to the date hereof:

If to Utility:

Carolina Water Service, Inc. 2335 Sanders Road Northbrook, Illinois 60062 Attn: Ms. Lisa Crossett Chief Operating Officer

If to Developer:

North Royal Tower, LLC PO Box 7347 West Columbia, SC 29171-7347 Attn: Mr. John D. Thompson

Delivery when made by registered or certified mail shall be deemed complete upon mailing. Delivery by overnight courier shall be deemed complete when delivered.

- 6. This Agreement may not be assigned by Developer without the written approval of Utility, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns.
- 7. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of South Carolina.
- If this Agreement is not executed prior to May 1, 2007, then the terms and conditions
  contained herein will be waived, with no further obligations or responsibilities to either
  party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have set their seals the day and year above first written.

Carolina Water Service, Inc

Its: VICE-PRESIDENT

Witness/Attest:

North Royal Tower, LLC

Witness/Attest:

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### PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### DOCKETING DEPARTMENT

### **NOTICE OF FILING**

**DOCKET NO. 2007-\_-S** 

Application of Carolina Water Service, Inc. for Approval of a Contract with North Royal Tower, LLC to Serve the Cornerstone Place of Irmo Subdivision.

Carolina Water Service, Inc. ("Applicant" or "Utility") has filed an application with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") pursuant to 26 S. C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-541 (Supp. 2006) for approval of a contract between it and North Royal Tower, LLC ("Developer") to serve the Cornerstone Place of Irmo Subdivision ("Development").

The Applicant is a public utility currently authorized to operate water and wastewater systems under the jurisdiction of the Commission in Richland County, as well as certain other counties in the state. The Applicant and Developer have entered into an agreement dated May 18, 2007 for wastewater utility service provided by the Applicant.

According to the Application, the Utility proposes to serve the Development which will consist of approximately ninety-five (95) single family homes when completed. The Agreement provides, *inter alia*, that the Developer will construct all of the necessary wastewater collection facilities ("Facilities") required to serve the Development, interconnect the Facilities with the Utility's existing wastewater systems, acquire all necessary easements and rights-of-way ("Easements") and convey such Facilities and Easements to the Applicant.

The Application reveals that the proposed development is within the Applicant's Commission authorized Service Area in Richland County.

A copy of the Company's Application can be obtained from the Commission at the following address: Public Service Commission of South Carolina, Docketing Department, 101 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210. Additionally, the Application is available on the Commission's website at <a href="https://www.psc.sc.gov">www.psc.sc.gov</a> and is available from Benjamin P. Mustian, Esquire, Willoughby & Hoefer, P.A., Post Office Box 8416, Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8416.

A public hearing, if scheduled, will be held in the Commission's Hearing Room, Synergy Business Park, Saluda Building, 101 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, South Carolina, for the purpose of receiving testimony and other evidence from all interested parties regarding this Application. The time and date of this hearing will be furnished to all interested parties at a later date.

Docket No. 2007S Carolina Water Service, Inc. Notice of Filing – Page 2
Any person who wishes to be notified of the hearing, but does not wish to present testimony or be a party of record, may do so by notifying the Docketing Department, in writing, at the address below on or before, 2007.  Please refer to Docket No. 2007
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: Any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding <u>MUST</u> present such comments, in person, to the Commission during the hearing.
Persons seeking information about the Commission's Procedures should contact the Commission at (803) 896-5100.
Public Service Commission of South Carolina Attn: Docketing Department Post Office Drawer 11649 Columbia, South Carolina 29211
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